

99th CONGRESS
1st Session

H.R. 3272

Walter B. Jones
(Original Signature of Member)

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Jones of North Carolina (for himself and Mr. Lent,
Mr. Biaggi, Mr. Studds, Mr. Lowry of Washington,
Mr. Carper

introduced the following bill; which was referred
to the Committee on

A BILL

(Insert title of bill here)

To designate the shipwreck of the Titanic as a maritime memorial and to provide for the reasonable research, exploration and salvage activities.

- 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United*
- 2 *States of America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE

This Act may be cited as "The TITANIC Maritime Memorial Act of 1985".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES

(a) FINDINGS -- The Congress finds that --

(1) the TITANIC, the ocean liner which sank on her maiden voyage after striking an iceberg on April 14, 1912, is a maritime memorial to the men, women and children who perished aboard her;

(2) the recent discovery of the shipwreck TITANIC, lying more than 12,000 feet beneath the ocean surface, demonstrates the practical applications of ocean science and engineering;

(3) the shipwreck TITANIC, well-preserved in the cold, oxygen-poor waters of the deep North Atlantic Ocean, is of major national and international historical significance;

(4) the shipwreck TITANIC represents a special opportunity for deep ocean scientific research and exploration; and

(5) the shipwreck TITANIC is a cultural and historical memorial which merits reasonable international protection.

(b) PURPOSES -- The Congress declares that the

purposes of this Act are --

(1) to establish the shipwreck TITANIC as an international maritime memorial to those who lost their lives aboard her in 1912;

(2) to require the establishment of national guidelines for conducting research on and exploration and, if appropriate, salvage of the shipwreck TITANIC;

(3) to express the sense of the United States Congress that all nations conduct their activities relating to the shipwreck TITANIC in accordance with these guidelines; and

(4) to direct the United States to enter into negotiations with other interested nations, including Great Britain, France and Canada, to establish an international agreement which will protect the scientific, historical and cultural significance of the shipwreck TITANIC.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS

(a) "Administrator" means the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA);

(b) "Secretary" means the Secretary of State;

(c) "Shipwreck" means the vessel, TITANIC, her cargo and other contents;

(d) "United States" means the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico,

American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, and any other Commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.

SEC. 4. COMMENDATION

The Congress of the United States highly commends the members of the joint international expedition which discovered the shipwreck TITANIC, and urges that this cooperative effort serve as a model for further international activities related to this memorial.

SEC. 5. NATIONAL GUIDELINES

(a) The Administrator shall develop guidelines to govern research, exploration and, if appropriate, salvage of the shipwreck TITANIC, which: (1) are consistent with its historical and cultural significance, as well as the purposes and policies of this Act; (2) promote the safety of individuals involved in such operations; and (3) recognize the sanctity of the shipwreck TITANIC as a maritime memorial.

(b) In developing these guidelines, the Administrator shall consult with other interested Federal agencies, academic and research institutions, and members of the public.

SEC. 6. INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT

(a) The Secretary is directed to enter into negotiations to develop an international agreement which provides for international research, exploration and, if appropriate, salvage of the shipwreck TITANIC consistent with guidelines developed pursuant to Section 5 and the purposes and policies of this Act; and

(b) The Secretary shall consult with the Administrator when fulfilling Section 6(a) above. The Administrator shall provide research and technical assistance to the Secretary.

(c) Upon adoption of an international agreement under Section 6, the Secretary shall provide notification of the agreement to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries in the House of Representatives and to the appropriate Committee in the Senate, including recommendations for legislation to implement the agreement.

SEC. 7. SENSE OF CONGRESS

It is the sense of Congress that pending adoption of an international agreement under Section 6, no nations

should undertake any activities in regard to the shipwreck TITANIC which are not in compliance with the guidelines developed under Section 5.

SEC. 8. DISCLAIMER OF EXTRATERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY

By enactment of this Act, the United States does not assert sovereignty or jurisdiction over, or the ownership of, any marine areas, the vessel or any of its cargo, unless otherwise subject to its jurisdiction.

92ND CONGRESS } H.R.
1ST SESSION

A BILL

(Insert title)

To designate the shipwreck of the Titanic as a maritime memorial and to provide for the reasonable research, exploration and salvage activities.

By Mr. Jones of North Carolina (for
himself and Mr. Lent, Mr. Biaggi,
Mr. Studds, Mr. Lowry of Washington,
Mr. Carper

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99TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3272

To designate the shipwreck of the Titanic as a maritime memorial and to provide for reasonable research, exploration, and, if appropriate, salvage activities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 11, 1985

Mr. JONES of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. LENT, Mr. BIAGGI, Mr. STUDDS, Mr. LOWRY of Washington, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. HUGHES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries

A BILL

To designate the shipwreck of the Titanic as a maritime memorial and to provide for reasonable research, exploration, and, if appropriate, salvage activities.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

4 This Act may be cited as "The Titanic Maritime
5 Memorial Act of 1985".

6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

7 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

8 (1) the Titanic, the ocean liner which sank on her
9 maiden voyage after striking an iceberg on April 14,

1 1912, is a maritime memorial to the men, women, and
2 children who perished aboard her;

3 (2) the recent discovery of the shipwreck Titanic,
4 lying more than twelve thousand feet beneath the
5 ocean surface, demonstrates the practical applications
6 of ocean science and engineering;

7 (3) the shipwreck Titanic, well preserved in the
8 cold, oxygen-poor waters of the deep North Atlantic
9 Ocean, is of major national and international historical
10 significance;

11 (4) the shipwreck Titanic represents a special op-
12 portunity for deep ocean scientific research and explo-
13 ration; and

14 (5) the shipwreck Titanic is a cultural and histori-
15 cal memorial which merits reasonable international
16 protection.

17 (b) PURPOSES.—The Congress declares that the pur-
18 poses of this Act are—

19 (1) to establish the shipwreck Titanic as an inter-
20 national maritime memorial to those who lost their
21 lives aboard her in 1912;

22 (2) to require the establishment of national guide-
23 lines for conducting research on and exploration and, if
24 appropriate, salvage of the shipwreck Titanic;

1 (3) to express the sense of the United States Con-
2 gress that all nations conduct their activities relating to
3 the shipwreck Titanic in accordance with these guide-
4 lines; and

5 (4) to direct the United States to enter into nego-
6 tiations with other interested nations, including Great
7 Britain, France, and Canada, to establish an interna-
8 tional agreement which will protect the scientific, his-
9 torical, and cultural significance of the shipwreck
10 Titanic.

11 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

12 (a) "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Na-
13 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA);

14 (b) "Secretary" means the Secretary of State;

15 (c) "Shipwreck" means the vessel, Titanic, her cargo,
16 and other contents;

17 (d) "United States" means the several States, the Dis-
18 trict of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Ameri-
19 can Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, and any
20 other Commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United
21 States.

22 **SEC. 4. COMMENDATION.**

23 The Congress of the United States highly commends the
24 members of the joint international expedition which discov-
25 ered the shipwreck Titanic, and urges that this cooperative

1 effort serve as a model for further international activities re-
2 lated to this memorial.

3 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL GUIDELINES.**

4 (a) The Administrator shall develop guidelines to govern
5 research, exploration, and, if appropriate, salvage of the ship-
6 wreck Titanic, which: (1) are consistent with its historical
7 and cultural significance, as well as the purposes and policies
8 of this Act; (2) promote the safety of individuals involved in
9 such operations; and (3) recognize the sanctity of the ship-
10 wreck Titanic as a maritime memorial.

11 (b) In developing these guidelines, the Administrator
12 shall consult with other interested Federal agencies, academ-
13 ic and research institutions, and members of the public.

14 **SEC. 6. INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT.**

15 (a) The Secretary is directed to enter into negotiations
16 to develop an international agreement which provides for
17 international research, exploration, and, if appropriate, sal-
18 vage of the shipwreck Titanic consistent with guidelines de-
19 veloped pursuant to section 5 and the purposes and policies
20 of this Act.

21 (b) The Secretary shall consult with the Administrator
22 when fulfilling section 6(a) above. The Administrator shall
23 provide research and technical assistance to the Secretary.

24 (c) Upon adoption of an international agreement under
25 section 6, the Secretary shall provide notification of the

1 agreement to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fish-
2 eries in the House of Representatives and to the appropriate
3 committee in the Senate, including recommendations for leg-
4 islation to implement the agreement.

5 **SEC. 7. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

6 It is the sense of Congress that pending adoption of an
7 international agreement under section 6, no nations should
8 undertake any activities in regard to the shipwreck Titanic
9 which are not in compliance with the guidelines developed
10 under section 5.

11 **SEC. 8. DISCLAIMER OF EXTRATERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY.**

12 By enactment of this Act, the United States does not
13 assert sovereignty or jurisdiction over, or the ownership of,
14 any marine areas, the vessel or any of its cargo, unless other-
15 wise subject to its jurisdiction.

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